

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183353
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-02 SS-15 OES-09 SSO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 INRE-00 HA-05 PA-02 ICAE-00
NSCE-00 EB-08 /067 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RWINDSOR:TMC
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
HUD/H:LSIMONS
HUD/SFI:TDEHANCOCK
EUR/SOV:WSHINN
S/MS:CKAMMAN
D:SOXMAN
OES/APT/SEP:RMORRIS

-----105577 200113Z /62

O 200021Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 183353

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: SCHEDULED MEETING
OF WORKING GROUP 10.03

REQUEST EMBASSY DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM HUD
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAWRENCE B. SIMONS TO I. I.
ISHCHENKO OF GOSSTROY.

"MR. IVAN IVANOVICH ISHCHENKO, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, U.S.S.R.
STATE COMMITTEE FOR CONSTRUCTION AFFAIRS, 12 MARX AVENUE,
MOSCOW, USSR.

DEAR MR. ISHCHENKO:
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IT IS WITH SINCERE REGRET THAT I MUST INFORM YOU THAT I
HAVE DECIDED TO CANCEL MY DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET
UNION. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE OF OUR DEEP CON-
CERN OVER THE TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY.

I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT BOTH SECRETARY HARRIS AND I

CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION UNDER THE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT. WE BOTH HOPE THAT CONDITIONS WILL SOON PERMIT

OUR MEETING TO PLAN FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

I VALUE THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP YOU AND I HAVE ESTABLISHED AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE.

SINCERELY YOURS,

LAWRENCE B. SIMONS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY."

FYI: FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO HUD FOR SE IF ASKED. BEGIN TEXT:

- LAWRENCE B. SIMONS, HUD ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER, HAD PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION JULY 31-AUGUST 13 TO REVIEW COOPERATION UNDER THE US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT'S BUILDING MATERIALS WORKING GROUP. MR. SIMONS HAS DECIDED, CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT ADMINISTRATION CONCERNS, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE WAKE OF RECENT TRIALS OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. MR. SIMONS REGRETS THE
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CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO HIS DECISION. HE REMAINS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALLY BALANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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